A Staff Training Aid

Physical Environment Checklist for Infants & Toddlers

A Publication of the Environments Professional Group

How well does your infant/toddler setting meet the environmental challenge? Think about your setting and then respond to these observations. Write **Yes** or **No** next to each item. Then go back and circle all "no" answers for appropriate attention.

My child development setting...

1.	 uses soft, neutral colors for backgrounds, with color accents added.
2.	 has soft furnishings for comfort in several areas.
3.	 has a variety of textures.
4.	 has a mixture of natural and full spectrum lighting.
5.	 has plenty of fresh air and good circulation.
6.	 provides contact with the natural world.
7.	 has no tall furniture to block views.
8.	 has noise control through carpeting, acoustic tiles, or baffles.
9.	 has clearly defined spaces.
10.	 has an open area for physical play.
11.	 provides quiet spaces for children.
12.	 has quiet and active play areas separated.
13.	 has clear pathways around activity areas.
14.	 has a place for parents and a place to share information with parents.
15.	 includes secure, unbreakable mirrors and display at floor or child's level.
16.	 has comfortable adult seating for holding infants and toddlers.
17.	 has adult storage inaccessible to children.
18.	 includes multilevel surfaces.
19.	 provides convenient, accessible storage for toddler playthings.
20.	is equipped with child-size furniture with rounded corners for safety.

21. ____ presents a changing selection of age-appropriate playthings.

22	offers multipurpose materials.
23	ensures that all playthings are in excellent condition with no small parts.
24	reflects the cultural make-up of the children.

How well did your infant and toddler setting do?

If you identified areas where there is room for improvement, set goals and focus on making those improvements. Start with two or three significant and attainable goals, such as going on a daily walk, adding soft elements to the room, or displaying children's artwork at their eye level. Then gradually work on more difficult or costly tasks. Keep working until your infant and toddler setting is all that it needs to be – nurturing, organized, functional, and attractive.

A Publication of the Environments Professional Group

The Environments Professional Group is a team of educators and designers who come together to make the connection between the needs of early childhood programs and the developmentally appropriate products that meet these needs.

© 2003 Environments, Inc.®

The contents of this publication are copyrighted by Environments, Inc.® All rights reserved.

Note: Up to 100 copies of this publication may be reproduced for educational use. Reproduction of this or any other Environments publication for commercial use or sale is strictly prohibited.

These suggestions and guidelines are general in nature and are not intended to take the place of any specific instructions provided to you by your supervisors or regulatory agencies. In addition, appropriate caution, reasonable safety precautions, and adult supervision of children are recommended at all times. Do not leave children unattended at any time.

Environments, Inc. Post Office Box 1348 Beaufort, SC 29901-1348 Phone: 843-846-8155

Fax: 843·846·2999 E-mail: environments@eichild.com



Call toll free 1·800·342·4453

1·800·EI·CHILD

Website environments.com
EICHILD.COM